

The President. Thank you.

Mr. Koernig. Thank you folks, and good night.

The President. They were good, weren't they? Thank you.

NOTE: The town meeting began at 7 p.m. in the KTVQ television studio.

Remarks on the F-16 Downed in Bosnia

June 2, 1995

Good afternoon. I am very concerned about the loss of our F-16 over Bosnia and the fate of the American pilot, and we are following that situation closely.

I have spoken today with President Chirac about the situation in Bosnia and about the meetings that Secretary Perry and General Shalikashvili will be attending. I've spoken with Secretary Perry and will meet with him and General Shali later today. We've also been in touch with the NATO commanders and with other governments.

I want to reiterate and make absolutely clear that our policy on Bosnia remains firm. For reasons that I think are obvious, I will have no further comments on this situation today.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:20 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Jacques Chirac of the European Council.

Remarks Honoring the 1995 NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Champions

June 2, 1995

The President. Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, I'm sorry that other events dictated that we started a little late today, but I want to welcome all of you to the White House, and all the people who have come from California and Connecticut: Senator Lieberman, Congresswoman Kennelly, Congresswoman DeLauro, Congressman Gejdenson. And from California, the president of—the chancellor of UCLA,

Chancellor Young; and the officers of UConn, the chairman of the board, Lew Rome, and the president, Harry Hartley. I am delighted to welcome all of you back to the White House who have been here before and those who are coming for the first time, to welcome you here.

You know, we ought to get something obvious out of the way. These championships were hard on the Vice President and me. [Laughter] I mean, we just have to hope our ticket does a little better in '96. [Laughter]

But some of you know, I am a near-fanatic basketball fan and I think that any serious student of basketball would have to say that this year, in the championship, not only the teams with the best records but the best teams in the United States won the championships and deserve—[inaudible].

I remember vividly when Tyus Edney came out of the final game with his wrist injury, and all the people were saying, "Well, this may be the undoing of UCLA." And I was sitting there looking at the team and I said, "I don't think so." [Laughter] I remember people—the discussions that I've heard, year-in and year-out, about how you have to have 10 players to win the final. And in the final, when you see the really great players with their adrenalin pumping, I don't think so.

And so, I want to congratulate again Coach Harrick and the Bruins on reviving UCLA's magnificent tradition, winning their 11th national title, and I think that they've got a great future. I also want to congratulate Ed O'Bannon on being selected the Most Outstanding Player of the tournament, and the NCAA Player of the Year, for his fantastic season.

I do want to say one thing. I had the privilege of coming to UCLA and giving the commencement address and being with Chancellor Young a couple of years ago. I have to chide you on one thing: I've been very proud of the very outspoken and courageous stance you've taken in favor of continuing affirmative action programs, so we can—[applause]—but if you had really believed in spreading opportunity around, you would not have permitted both the O'Bannon brothers to be on your team. [Laughter] Nonetheless, I forgive you for that minor lapse. [Laughter]